

From: Michael Newton
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 1:52am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am of the opinion that Microsoft is actually *Winning* this case with the settlement proposed. It is the equivalent of a slapping a murderer on the wrist. And yes, MS is very much a murderer.

A suitable punishment would be to force open all of their API's, an API is the code base used to write the uppermost tier of executable programs. The Win32 API, if open, would not only embarrass the company (with their feeble attempts at programming), but will allow any number of windows programs to run on alternative operating systems.

There is a project underway to create an API that mimics the win32 API, called WINE, but life would be so much easier if the code-base was already open. Another part of this is the networking/communications APIs. MS Outlook and MS Exchange Server have a closed protocol. Opening this would pave the way for alternative Office platforms, or actually using MS Office on top of another OS (Beos, Linux, Solaris).

Have you ever really read the Microsoft licensing schemes? They had this one scheme that flopped, not too long ago, that had 3 options:

- 1) You don't sign up for anything special. MS then jacks up the costs of individual licenses.
- 2) You pay a yearly fee, and receive MS upgrades and licenses.
- 3) You pay a significantly reduced amount if you promise to use ONLY MS products.

Everyone and their brother originally bought MS products because they were cheap, and because they managed to worm into the OEM distribution channels. They have become a defacto standard, even though their OS is worth crap. Let us count the number of security issues Windows XX has had in the past 6 months, and the amount of bandwidth that the entire internet lost because of it.

If the Gov't doesn't hold MS's hand while doing business, to ensure that it is done fairly, I will have significantly less confidence in every part of this country. I swear... If you actually need something done right, you can't write to anyone any longer because you will be ignored. How many senators check their e-mail anymore? How much thought will you (the reader) actually give this letter, as well as the thousands of other letters you receive just like this one?

We actually need computer literate people deciding on this case, and it is apparent that we do not have that. In their stead, we have a pile of lemmings that have been fed MS gestapo propaganda.

Yeah, ironically, I send this via Outlook Express, on the only windows machine I own. I have had to patch this machine 20 times a month, compared to the goose-egg off my two Linux machines. Go figure.

Mike